Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 17, 35, 48, 55, 57, 58, 60 and 61 have been amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-16, 21-27, 34, 36-47, 49, 53, 54, 56, 59, and 62-64 without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications including same.

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for processing rate controlling membranes used in implantable drug delivery devices comprising:

a) providing a membrane formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers;

b) allowing the membrane to relax at room temperature for about 12 hours to 7 days before being subjected to elevated temperature;

~~b.~~ c) exposing the membrane to a predetermined temperature of from about 30° C to about 5° C below the melting temperature of the membrane polymer;

~~c~~ d) maintaining the membrane at the predetermined temperature for a period of time of from about 1 to 250 hours; and

~~d~~ e) incorporating said membrane into ~~a~~ an implantable controlled drug delivery device.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the predetermined temperature is from about 45° C to 80° C.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18 wherein the membrane is maintained at the predetermined temperature for a period of time of from about 1 to 75 hours.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the membrane is cooled to ambient conditions over a period of time of about 0.1-150 hours prior to incorporating the membrane into the device.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23-27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the membrane is allowed to set at ambient conditions for a period of at least about 12 hours after processing prior to exposing the membrane to said predetermined temperature.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28 wherein the membrane is allowed to set at ambient conditions for a period of at least 48 hours after processing prior to exposing the membrane to said predetermined temperature.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the membrane comprises polyurethane.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the predetermined temperature is about 55-75° C and the period of time is about 12 to about 48 hours.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31 wherein the membrane is positioned in sealing relationship with an internal surface of one end of an impermeable reservoir of a fluid-imbibing drug delivery device, wherein said fluid imbibing drug delivery device comprises an impermeable reservoir containing a piston that divides the reservoir into an active agent containing chamber and a water-swellable agent containing chamber, wherein the water-swellable agent containing chamber is provided with an outlet which accommodates said membrane.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The rate controlling membrane according to claim 1 wherein the membrane comprises a polyether blocked amide copolymer.

35. (Currently amended) A rate controlling membrane for an implantable drug delivery device, wherein the membrane comprises a polyurethane and the membrane is characterized by being subjected to an elevated temperature of about 30° C to about 5° C below the melting temperature of the membrane for a predetermined period of about 1-250 hours and subsequently incorporated into the drug delivery device, ~~The rate controlling membrane according to claim 10~~ and wherein the polyurethane is a single aliphatic polyether polyurethane or a blend of aliphatic polyether polyurethanes, wherein the membrane has decreased variability of water uptake from membrane to membrane.

36-47 (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) A method for processing rate controlling membranes used in implantable drug delivery devices comprising:

a) providing a membrane formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers;

b) allowing the membrane to relax at room temperature for about 12 hours to 7 days;

~~b~~ c) exposing the relaxed membrane to a predetermined temperature of from about 30° C to about 5°C below the melting temperature of the membrane polymer;

~~c~~ d) maintaining the membrane at the predetermined temperature for a period of time of from about 1 to 250 hours; and

~~d~~ e) incorporating said membrane into ~~a~~ an implantable controlled drug delivery device.

Cancel claim 49.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein the membrane comprises polyether blocked amides copolymers.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 wherein the predetermined temperature is about 55-75° C and the period of time is about 12 to about 48 hours.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the membrane is positioned in sealing relationship with an internal surface of one end of an impermeable reservoir of a fluid-imbibing drug delivery device, wherein said fluid imbibing drug delivery device comprises an impermeable reservoir containing a piston that divides the reservoir into an active agent containing chamber and a water-swellable agent containing chamber, wherein the water-swellable agent containing chamber is provided with an outlet which accommodates said membrane.

53 (Canceled)

54 (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A rate controlling membrane for an implantable drug delivery device with decreased variability of water uptake from membrane to membrane, wherein the membrane is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) A method for processing rate controlling membranes used in implantable drug delivery devices comprising:

a) providing a membrane formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers;

b) allowing the membrane to relax at room temperature for about 12 hours to 7 days before being subjected to elevated temperature;

~~b~~ c) exposing the membrane to a predetermined temperature of from about 45° C to about 80°C;

~~c~~ d) maintaining the membrane at the predetermined temperature for a period of time of from about 1 to 250 hours; and

~~d~~ e) incorporating said membrane into ~~a~~ an implantable controlled drug delivery device.

58. (Currently amended) A method for processing rate controlling membranes used in implantable drug delivery devices comprising:

a) providing a membrane formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers;

b) allowing the membrane to relax at room temperature for about 12 hours to 7 days before being subjected to elevated temperature;

~~a~~ c) exposing the membrane to a predetermined temperature of from about 45° C to about 80°C;

~~b~~ d) maintaining the membrane at the predetermined temperature for a period of time of from about 1 to 75 hours; and

~~c~~ e) incorporating said membrane into ~~a~~ an implantable controlled drug delivery device.

59. (Canceled).

60. (Currently amended) An annealed rate controlling membrane for an implantable drug delivery device wherein the annealed membrane is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers and wherein the annealed membrane exhibits more stable water uptake and more stable water permeability than a non-annealed membrane.

61. (Currently amended) An annealed rate controlling membrane for an implantable drug delivery device wherein the annealed membrane is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes and polyether blocked amides copolymers and wherein the annealing process decreases the variability of water uptake from membrane to membrane over time.

62-64. (Canceled)